

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1254
By Kelsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singers in America upon the celebration of its 60th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly recognize those estimable musical organizations that have enriched the lives of Tennesseans and contributed significantly to the deep and varied history of this great State; and

WHEREAS, one such musical organization is the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA); and

WHEREAS, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on July 25, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the SPEBSQSA was founded by George H. "Big George" Evans and eleven friends; they received a charter from the SPEBSQSA on July 25, 1946; and

WHEREAS, with a present membership of seventy-two men, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter has expanded its musical repertoire to include Memphis-style blues, gospel, and contemporary songs arranged in barbershop music and harmonies; and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence in every endeavor, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter won the SPEBSQSA International Chorus Contest in 1958, the Dixie District Chorus Contest in 1972, and the Dixie District Chorus Contest in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter's famous quartets have contributed substantially to its growth and success; these estimable quartets include the Confederates (1956 SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions); the Rebelaires (1950 Dixie District Champions); the Chickasaws (1956 Dixie District Champions); the Spellbinders (1971 Dixie District Champions); Split Decision (1997 Dixie District Champions); Ringside (2005 Dixie District Champions); High Cotton (1974 Dixie District Novice Quartet Champions); Special Reserve (2006 Dixie District Novice Quartet Champions); and Quicksilver (1997 Dixie District Seniors Quartet Runner-Up); and

WHEREAS, several members of the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of SPEBSQSA have had unparalleled records of service as Dixie District Presidents, including Elford Lumpkin (1950-1951), Wally Singleton (1955-1956), Steve Keiss (1973-1974), Jim Warner (1981-1982), Jim Sams (2000-2001), and Dwain Chambers (2006); and

WHEREAS, Jim Warner also served as the SPEBSQSA's International President in 1988, the society's 50th Anniversary, and as President of the Board of Trustees of Harmony Foundation International, the society's charity organization; and

WHEREAS, a leading donor to Harmony Foundation International, the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter has also made significant contributions to many community non-profit organizations, including the Cynthia Milk Fund, the Heart Fund, and the LeBonheur Children's Hospital; the Memphis Chapter also recently launched the Youth in Harmony program, which will provide workshops for high school students and music teachers and financial support for music programs at local schools; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Memphis Tennessee Chapter of the SPEBSQSA epitomize the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body wishes to recognize the members of this estimable group of talented singers for their commitment to musical excellence and their devotion to community service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Memphis, Tennessee Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singers in America upon the celebration of their 60th Anniversary, commend them for their meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.